

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:
What is claimed is:

1-13 (Canceled)

14. (New) A method for testing the presence or absence of an animal-derived ingredient(s) in food, comprising the following steps:

- (i) detecting whether a DNA fragment highly conserved among animals is present in the food;
- (ii) if the result of step (i) is positive, detecting whether a DNA fragment highly conserved among mammals and poultry is present in the food; and
- (iii) if the result of step (ii) is negative, detecting whether a DNA fragment highly conserved in a particular animal species is present in the food is used to detect whether a DNA fragment highly conserved in a particular species of amphibian and/or aquatic animals is present in the food.

15. (New) The method according to Claim 14, wherein the DNA fragment highly conserved among animals is derived from 12S ribosomal RNA gene, 16S ribosomal RNA gene, 18S ribosomal RNA gene or cytochrome b gene.

16. (New) The method according to Claim 15, wherein the DNA fragment highly conserved among animals is derived from 16S ribosomal RNA gene.

17. (New) The method according to Claim 14, wherein the DNA fragment highly conserved among mammals and poultry is derived from myostatin gene.

18. (New) The method according to Claim 14, wherein the particular species of mammals and/or poultry is selected from the group consisting of pigs, cattle, sheep, horses, kangaroos, rabbits, deers, murines, chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys and pigeons.

19. (New) The method according to Claim 14, wherein the particular species of amphibian and/or aquatic animals is selected from the group consisting of frogs, fishes, cuttlefishes, shrimps and crabs.